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Chief, Security Branch

11 October 1949

Interrogation Research Section

Suggested Over-All Research Program.

The necessity for keeping well informed of present interrogation methods and special operational methods used by unfriendly countries cannot be over emphasized. Below are listed various suggested phases of research and proposed details for the carrying out of a progressive and extremely active research program.

It is recommended that every effort be made to acquire and review existing literature covering past and present interrogation techniques and the use of such operational procedures as hypnotic and drug control. The review would include all articles in periodicals and books written by specialists on such subjects as general interrogation, psychological interrogation, the use of the Polygraph, truth serum and hypnosis. These specialists may not be actively engaged in interrogation but may be working in allied fields which might provide valuable contributions to our own interests. This survey would also include the careful scrutinization of all intelligence reports involving interrogation methods and special operational techniques. The flow of information from this source would be greatly accelerated by the issuance of an interrogation collection requirement. The "existing technique" survey should also include facilities for the investigation of the use or suspected use of special techniques. Medical and psychiatric practitioners would be valuable contributors and liaison with such individuals would be extremely beneficial. The research sections of police departments and criminology laboratories might all prove to be very beneficial. Suggested methods for liaison with such organizations will be covered in a separate memorandum. Good liaison with other governmental agencies and the various branches of the military service would be very helpful. Liaison with professional hypnotists could contribute many pointers which might be applied to certain phases of our problems. Liaison with certain universities which are outstanding in fields allied to our interests would be beneficial. In some cases, liaison with the above mentioned organizations and individuals would involve a cover to conceal CIA interest in such matters.

The survey of "existing techniques" previously mentioned would take care of methods used in the past and present and make a matter of record through books, periodicals and reports. It is felt that active research should be conducted in conjunction with "technique verification". This verification would involve research on reportedly existing techniques and actual experimentation carried out to prove and disprove their value and effectiveness. This research would involve the volunteering of subjects for actual laboratory experiments. Reports covering these experiments would be furnished in the form of lectures, demonstrations and systematic written coverage.

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Besides the survey of "existing techniques", and the "technique verification", a third phase should be kept active covering "new methods". This program would also involve actual laboratory research and the issuing of verbal and written reports. This phase would also include the improvement of techniques already in existence.

As of this date, it is felt that this Interrogation Research Section is more progressive and far in advance of all existing governmental, police, and private research activities concerning the use of operational hypnosis and highly specialized methods of interrogation. It is felt that this lead might be maintained and that the program might be further accelerated by the execution of the above mentioned suggestions.

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